IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a) input means for inputting variable length packet data including packet length information indicative of a packet length and encoded information data;

b) judgment means for judging the packet length of the variable length packet data; and

c) packet generating means for generating the variable length packet data into fixed length packet data in accordance with an output of said judgment means, and transmitting the fixed length packet data,

wherein said packet generating means includes memory means for generating fixed length data and initializing means for initializing beforehand said memory means by writing stuffing data in said memory means, and said packet generating means generates the fixed length data by overwriting the variable length packet data into the initialized memory means in accordance with the packet length judged by said judgment means and reading out the data from said memory means, and said packet generating means generates the fixed length packet data in which the stuffing data is written, in case that the variable length packet data to be written into said memory means is shorter than a predetermined length.

2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

clock reference information generating means for generating clock reference information for use in a time reference during decoding of the encoded information data,

wherein said packet generating means transmits at least one fixed length packet data provided with the clock reference information generated by said clock reference information generating means within a predetermined time interval.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

program specific information generating means for generating program specific information indicative of a program specific of a packet to be transmitted,

wherein said packet generating means transmits at least one fixed length packet data provided with the program specific information generated by said program specific information generating means within the predetermined time interval.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means inputs a plurality of types of variable length packet data.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said packet generating means transmits the fixed length packet data provided with the clock reference information, when no effective fixed length packet data is present.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said packet generating means transmits the fixed length packet data provided with the program specific information, when no effective fixed length packet data is present.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the variable length packet data is Packetized Elementary Stream (PES) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1, and the fixed length packet data is Transport Stream (TS) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the clock reference information is Program Clock Reference (PCR) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the program specific information is Program Specific Information (PSI) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the information data is image data, and is encoded in conformity with ISO/IEC 13818-2.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said packet generating means inserts a stuffing byte when the code length of the variable length packet data is less than the code length which can be inserted to the fixed length packet data.

12.-25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously Presented) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting variable length packet data including packet length information indicative of a packet length and encoded information data;

judging the packet length of the variable length packet data; and

generating the variable length packet data into fixed length packet data in accordance with the judgment result and transmitting the fixed length packet data,

wherein said generating step includes a step of initializing beforehand memory means for generating fixed length data, by writing stuffing data in said memory means in advance, said generating step generates the fixed length data by overwriting the variable length packet data into the initialized memory means in accordance with the packet length judged in said judging step and reading out the data from said memory means, and said generating step includes a step of generating the fixed length packet data in which the stuffing data is written, in case that the variable length packet data to be written into said memory means is shorter than a predetermined length.

27 and 28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) A storage medium in which an information processing program according to claim 26 is stored and which can be read by a computer.

30. and 31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a) an input portion, which inputs variable length packet data including packet length information indicative of a packet length and encoded information data;

b) a judgment portion, which judges the packet length of the variable length packet data; and

c) a packet generating portion, which generates the variable length packet data into fixed length packet data in accordance with an output of said judgment portion, and transmits the fixed length packet data,

wherein said packet generating portion includes memory for generating fixed length data and initializing means for initializing beforehand said memory by writing stuffing data in said memory, and said packet generating portion generates the fixed length data by overwriting the variable length packet data into the initialized memory in accordance with the packet length judged by said judgment portion and reading out the data from said memory, and said packet generating portion generates the fixed length packet data in which the stuffing data is written, in case that the variable length packet data to be written into said memory is shorter than a predetermined length.

33. and 34. (Canceled)